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Report of the Insane Asylum of Oregon

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Report of the inspecting physician of the insane asylum, Oregon, to the Legislative Assembly thereof 1872;

Report of the visiting physician to the insane asylum 1874, 1878; and

Biennial report of the visiting physician to the insane asylum 1876, 1880-1882

LLMC #: 01296t

REPORT

OF THE

VISITING PHYSICIAN

TO THE

INSANE ASYLUM.

EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION---1874.

SALEM, OREGON:
MART. V. BROWN, STATE PRINTER.
1874.

REPORT.

Hon. L. F. Grover, Governor of Oregon:

DEAR SIR—I respectfully submit the following Biennial Report for the term ending September 1, 1874:

Whole number of patients remaining in the Insane Asylum, September 1, 1872:

State, Males	116	
Females	47	163
Private, Males	3	
Females	1	4
Total		167

Whole number of patients admitted from September 1, 1872, to September 1, 1874:

State, Males	85	
Females	37	122
Private, Males	1	
Females	5	6
Total		128

Whole number of patients treated in Hospital from September 1, 1872, to September 1, 1874:

State, Males	201	
Females	84	285
Private, Males	4	
Females	6	10
Total		295

Whole number of patients discharged from September 1, 1872, to September 1, 1874:

State, Males cured	32	
Females cured	18	50
Males improved	4	
Females improved	6	10
Total		60
State Males died	25	
Females died	7	32
Private Males cured	4	
Females cured	3	7
Female died		1

Whole number of patients remaining in the Hospital, September 1, 1874:

State Males	140	
Females	53	193
Private Males		
Females	2	2
Total		195

Of the whole number of State and Private patients discharged "cured" eighteen remained in the Hospital less than three months, thirteen less than six months, nine less than nine months, six less than one year, and eleven over one year.

Of the whole number discharged "improved," five remained in the Hospital less than three months, one less than nine months, one less than one year, and three over one year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.

Twenty-five males and seven females, State patients, and one private female patient, have died since my last report. Of these deaths ten have resulted from pulmonary consumption, four from organic disease of the brain,

four from exhaustation of chronic mania, three from paralysis and general debility, one from softening of the brain, one from gangrene, two from epileptic convulsion, one from apoplexy, one from marasmus, one from general paresis, one from old age and debility, one from congestion of lungs, one from acute mania, consequent upon inflammation of the brain, one from pyæmia from accidental wound, one from general dropsy.

NATIVITY.

The nativity of one hundred and ninety-five patients, remaining in the Hospital September 1st, 1874, is as follows:

Of the United States, 124; Germany, 11; England, 7; France, 4; Norway, 3; Scotland, 2; Austria, 3; Canada, 4; China, 4; Poland, 1; Nova Scotia, 1; Finland, 1; Mexico, 1; Africa, 1.

Of those remaining in the Hospital, at this date, the form of disease is acute mania, 33; chronic mania, 100; epilepsy, 14; monomania, 2; melancholy, 2; dementiae, 24; idiocy, 14.

Of the whole number of patients now in the Asylum 72 are considered curable, 90 incurable, 33 doubtful.

Six private patients have been received since my last report four of whom have been discharged, one died and one remains on hand.

The rate of recoveries to admissions, since my last report, is forty-two and three quarters per cent.

The deaths amount to eleven and one-seventh per cent. of the whole number under treatment.

The admissions were ten less than for the two preceding years.

The highest number of patients under treatment, in the Hospital at any one time, was one hundred and sixty.

The average number of patients under treatment for the whole time was 180 and 35-100.

The whole number of male patients under treatment was 201; females, 84.

The highest number of males under treatment at any one time since my last report was 147.

The highest number of females under treatment at any one time since my last report was 53.

The lowest number of males under treatment at any one time since my last report was 113.

ESCAPES.

Since my last report six patients have escaped, of whom five have been recaptured, leaving one still at large.

DEATHS.

The percentage of deaths has been unusually large for the past two years. However, only two deaths occurred from causes other than those producing the mental disorders, and in these cases the powers of resistance had been greatly impaired, so that when attacked by disease it found their vitality reduced to such an extent as to render them unable to resist the attack. In the other cases death was the natural termination, depending directly or indirectly on the original disease, and of which the mental disturbance was the only symptom.

Many of these cases were of long standing, and were beyond all hope of recovery, and it was simply a question of time as to the fatal termination. Organic disease of the brain prevailed in more than the usual proportion, while in the others the great nerve centers had been weakened or impaired by long continued disorder to such an extent as to be beyond the control of medical skill.

Everything that possibly could be accomplished for the moral and sanitary condition of the inmates has been car-

ied out by Doctor Hawthorne, in a manner deserving of special commendation. He has provided amusements of various kinds, including balls, readings, dissolving views and theatrical and musical entertainments, whenever an opportunity offered to accomplish the same.

The religious status of the patients has been considerably improved through his efforts in providing a chapel in which divine service is performed at least once a week, and also in liberally supplying the patients with periodicals and other substantial literature.

I am gratified to be able to report that the decrease on admissions for the past two years as compared with the preceding term was about seven per cent.; also that the ratio of recoveries during the same period presents a very gratifying record, being more than the average number of recoveries in the various Asylums of the United States, as gleaned from the official reports made to the various Legislatures of the different States.

The patients medicinally are well and carefully treated, a physician being constantly in attendance. The hygiene of the Institution is all that the most scrupulous could desire. The food is of the best quality, and is bountifully supplied, in fact, equal to any institution of a similar nature in the United States.

To your Excellency, for personal kindness and attention to the wards of the State, to Doctors Hawthorne and Ballard for their kindness and attention on all occasions during my official visits, to Mr. Kenworthy and the employees of the Institution for their courteous and kind attention to the patients under their immediate care, I return my sincere thanks.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ANDREW D. ELLIS,

Visiting Physician Oregon Asylum for the Insane.